

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 21 as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) An electric contact member applying a voltage from a voltage applying means to a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of an image carrier, comprising:

a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;

a reciprocally movable moving portion connected electrically to a side of the charger; and

a buffer portion formed between said securing portion and said moving portion.

2. (Previously Presented) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein said buffer portion has an elasticity.

3. (Previously Presented) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein said buffer portion is in a ring shape.

4. (Previously Presented) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein said buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

5. (Previously Presented) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein said buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

6. (Previously Presented) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said securing portion and said moving portion has a torsion spring portion.

7. (Previously Presented) The electric contact member according to claim 1, wherein at least one of said securing portion and said moving portion has a coil spring portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The electric contact member according to claim 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, or 7, wherein said electric contact member is in a linear shape.

9. (Previously Presented) A process cartridge detachably attachable to a body of an image forming apparatus, comprising:

an image carrier;

a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of said image carrier; and

an electric contact member configured and positioned to apply a voltage from a voltage applying means to said charger, said electric contact member comprising:

a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;

a reciprocally movable moving portion connected electrically to a side of said charger; and

a buffer portion formed between said securing portion and said moving portion.

10. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein said charger charges a developing agent remaining on said image carrier.

11. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 10, wherein said charger is placed on a downstream side of a transfer position at which a developing agent image is transferred from said image carrier to a transfer member and on an upstream side of a charging means for charging said image carrier, in the moving direction of said image carrier.

12. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein said charger moves reciprocally in contact with said image carrier.

13. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 12, wherein said charger has a brush member in contact with said image carrier.

14. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein said buffer portion has an elasticity.

15. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein said buffer portion is in a ring shape.

16. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein said buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

17. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein said buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

18. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein at least one of said securing portion and said moving portion has a torsion spring portion.

19. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 9, wherein at least one of said securing portion and said moving portion has a coil spring portion.

20. (Previously Presented) The process cartridge according to claim 11, wherein said process cartridge has a developing means for forming the developing agent image on said image carrier, and wherein the developing means can collect a remaining developing agent on said image carrier.

21. (Currently Amended) The ~~electric contact member~~ process cartridge according to claim 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, or 20, wherein said electric contact member is in a linear shape.

22. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
an image carrier;  
a charger reciprocally moving in a longitudinal direction of said image carrier; and  
an electric contact member configured and positioned to apply a voltage from a voltage applying means to said charger, said electric contact member comprising:

a securing portion electrically connected to a side of the voltage applying means;

a reciprocally movable moving portion connected electrically to a side of said charger; and

a buffer portion formed between said securing portion and said moving portion.

23. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said charger is placed on a downstream side of a transfer position at which a developing agent image is transferred from said image carrier to a transfer member and on an upstream side of a charging means for charging said image carrier, in the moving direction of said image carrier and charges a developing agent remaining on said image carrier, wherein said apparatus has a developing means for forming the developing agent image on said image carrier, and wherein the developing means can collect a remaining developing agent on said image carrier.

24. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said buffer portion has an elasticity.

25. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said buffer portion is in a ring shape.

26. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said buffer portion has a torsion spring portion.

27. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, wherein said buffer portion has a coil spring portion.

28. (Previously Presented) The image forming apparatus according to claim 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, or 27, wherein said electric contact member is in a linear shape.